

Equity and Social Justice (ESJ) in the Solid Waste Division



King County

Department of
Natural Resources and Parks
Solid Waste Division

Waste
Prevention

Resource
Recovery

Waste
Disposal

King County Ordinance 16948

Ordinance 16948 - consider equity and social justice impacts in all decision-making so that decisions increase fairness and opportunity for all people, particularly for:

- People of color
- Low-income communities, and
- People with limited English proficiency



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So what is Equity & Social Justice?

Social Justice

- ...requires the fair distribution of public goods, institutional resources and life opportunities for all people.

Equity

- means all people have full and equal access to opportunities that enable them to attain their full potential.



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What is the difference between Equity and Equality?

- Everyone gets the same thing
- Everyone gets what they need



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Destination Zero Waste:

Connecting underrepresented youth to their solid waste system



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Destination Zero Waste

- To enhance SWD's ESJ efforts, the External ESJ Committee developed the "Destination Zero Waste" program to bring underrepresented grade-school children to tour the Bow Lake Recycling and Transfer Station
- Underrepresented students include those who:
 - Live in poverty
 - Have limited English skills
 - Receive free or reduced lunch
 - Are people of color

Destination Zero Waste Tour Highlights

- A tour of the station describing engineering, design, construction, and operations
- “Classroom” time to reinforce recycling methods and introduce students to SWD’s diverse workforce
- A healthy snack
- A post-tour quiz to understand what was learned

Benefits and Outcomes

- Bridge the gap between who we are and the diverse communities we serve
- Give underrepresented children the chance to participate in their future
- Exposure to future career opportunities



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